ONTARIO PROVINCIAL POLICE

Provincial Operations Intelligence Bureau

SITUATION REPORT

DATE: 2022-01-25 **FILE NAME: Project HENDON**

Report#: 022-2022 **Event: Freedom Convoy/Bearhug 2.0**

Protected B - Medium Sensitivity - Particularly sensitive information requiring protection.		
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INFORMATION

The information in this report is current to 2022-01-25 at 1200 hours.

- Information from the Regina Police Service on 2022-01-24 at 1700 hours indicates that the convoy consisted of approximately 1200 trucks.
- Unconfirmed information from a convoy organizer indicated 162 trucks and over 1000 private vehicles at approximately 1100 hours this date.
- The Sûreté du Québec is reporting that a convoy organizer estimates 1000 to 1500 trucks will cross the border into Ontario at Vaudreuil on route to Vankleek Hill: these numbers are unconfirmed. Additionally, 3575 people may attend Ottawa, with 1700 protesting in Gatineau on 2022-01-29.
- The RCMP in Manitoba shared audio from a Facebook live video in which a male, identified in the reporting as a convoy organizer, claims that the convoy would "run" any roadblocks placed its way. The video was also shared.
- Reporting from the RCMP in Manitoba indicates that convoy participants are upset as a result of parts of the convoy having been directed to weigh scales and Highway Traffic Act infractions issued. Some online messaging suggests that these acts were an intentional tactic by police to disrupt the protest. OPP information indicates that weigh scales in the province will be closed.
- Reporting from the RCMP in Manitoba also indicates that some convoy participants may drive to the Manitoba Legislature and one convoy may drive either to or from the border.
- Online messaging has been identified suggesting that truck drivers from the United States may attempt to cross the border at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan – Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. The messaging indicates that they may also attempt to cross the border from Maine and Montana. A video shared on a Twitter account in the name of Randy HILLIER depicts a line of truck tractors allegedly on route to Canada from South Carolina to join the Canadian convoy. Some social media messaging indicates that American truck drivers have joined the convoy.

- Convoy organizers have advised that participants must sign a Code of Conduct. It is unknown what the consequences will be, if any, for breaking this code, or how it will be enforced.
- Online messages continue to be posted about police setting up roadblocks outside of Ottawa. At least one individual has suggested attempting to confirm the information through Ottawa Police Service supporters of POLICE ON GUARD.
- [redacted] convoy supporter organizing meals for the truck drivers has received some negative feedback from members of the public. Additionally, we have identified some negative social media messaging directed at the CANADIAN TRUCKING ALLIANCE, which has publicly criticized the convoy.
- The RCMP has advised that most government employees in Ottawa are working remotely, potentially minimizing any impact of the protest on government.
- The GoFundMe account supporting the Freedom Convoy has raised $4.4 million (2022-01-25 1140 hours), representing an increase of approximately $1,000,000 since yesterday afternoon. Open source reporting today indicates that the funds are still being withheld due to a lack of transparency as to how the funds will be spent (*previously reported in HENDON PM SITREP 019-2022 dated 2022-01-23*).
- A separate fundraiser ("ADOPT A TRUCKER") on the crowdfunding site "GiveSendGo.com" has raised $27,947 (2022-01-25 1140 hours).

ASSESSMENT

Although convoy organizers have repeatedly stated the intention to conduct a lawful protest, the available information suggests that elements within the convoy, or supporting the convoy, could engage in actions that pose a public safety threat. Convoy organizers will almost certainly have little ability to influence or control the behaviour of some convoy participants and protest attendees.

Open source monitoring has identified online rhetoric advocating violence or implying the use of violence. Online misinformation or disinformation about potential police responses to the convoy will likely feed the narrative that the police wish to stop the convoy with the use of delay tactics or roadblocks, although relations between organizers and the OPP to date appear cooperative. The withholding by GoFundMe of the monies raised to support the convoy may also feed the conspiracy narrative for some convoy participants or supporters.

The lack of information relayed to the OPP about events in Ottawa during the period from 2022-01-28 to 2022-01-29 and on 2022-01-30 represents a serious intelligence gap. Information provided to the OPP to date indicates a high degree of planning for the protest, and communications appear to have been open between the OPP and convoy organizers. It is unknown why the details for these time frames would not be shared with police: attempts should be made to obtain this information.

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TACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Updated information is in green font.

- **Part of the convoy is scheduled to arrive in Ottawa on 2022-01-28. Based on a stated departure time of 0830 hours from Kingston, this group may arrive as early as mid-morning.**
- The convoy reportedly is using drones and has a documentary crew with them and provided the website "truckingforfreedom.com". There are plans to begin live streaming the convoy on YouTube starting 2022-01-25.
- Parts of the Trans Canada Highway in Saskatchewan were closed on 2022-01-24 due to severe winter weather. The convoy has also changed plans for mustering on the outskirts of Regina and now want to drive through the city. Road conditions could slow the convoy's progress or spread it out. Some convoy routes could change with little warning.
- Convoys may be split in two if they get very long.
- Port-a-potties, fencing, and security have been arranged for Ottawa.
- A message on the Twitter page for THE LINE CANADA is calling for a "bridge protest" in support of the Freedom Convoy for 2022-01-27 starting at 1230 hours. The comment states that the convoy is expected to traverse Durham Region at approximately 1300 hours. The post calls for supporters to attend bridges at the following locations: Albert Street and Simcoe Street (Oshawa); Thickson Street and Brock Street (Whitby); Harwood Avenue (Ajax); and Brock Road (Pickering).

INTELLIGENCE GAPS (COLLECTION REQUIREMENTS)

Priority intelligence gaps are in red font.

- **Participant numbers - online indicators are unreliable;**
- **Nature of activities in Ottawa by advance convoy participants (2022-01-28 - 2022-01-29);**
- **Events possibly scheduled at Parliament Hill on 2022-01-30;**
- **Extent of extremist participation in convoy protest and intent of extremist actors;**
- Potential for some participants to bring weapons or be armed;
- Nature and location of evening event in Kingston (2022-01-27);
- Date and location of delivery of port-a-potties and security fencing; location of installation of same;

- Lodging and meals in Ottawa if participants remain for a prolonged period of time;
- Plans for any further action should demands not be met;
- Plans for departing Ottawa.

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EVENT SCHEDULE

Updated information is in green font.

2022-01-25

- **Local Convoys:** Local convoys are occurring today in Lambton-Sarnia and Windsor-Essex.
  A small passenger vehicle convoy is scheduled from Stirling Rawdon Township to the Tweed Municipal Building, mustering at Ridge Road and Minto Road at 1620 hours. The convoy in Windsor slowed to 5 km/hr at one point in the morning, occupying two lanes. The driver of a van moving slowly in the middle lane refused to comply with instructions from the local convoy organizer.

  In the Lambton-Sarnia protest, a private vehicle at the rear of the convoy was struck by a tractor-trailer that was not part of the protest. There were no injuries. PLT members and convoy organizer briefed drivers on road safety related to slow speeds.

2022-01-26

- **Local Convoys:** Local slow rolls are scheduled in Windsor-Essex until 2022-01-27.

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